

OUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE WORD

Schedule for June 19-25, 2017

EZEKIEL

- MON CH. 12:** The LORD told Ezekiel to act out going into exile before the people. Ezekiel carried baggage, dug through the wall, and covered his face as a sign for the people, and particularly King Zedekiah, that the LORD was going to execute judgment against them; they would be exiled. Zedekiah would try to flee, but would be caught and blinded. These judgments would come to pass and they would come in their lifetime.
- TUE CH. 13:** Ezekiel was to prophesy against the false prophets and prophetesses. These prophets gave feel-good, white-washing prophecies, and expected their prophecies to come to pass; they will be exposed as frauds. The prophetesses practiced a form of witchcraft for gain that resulted in gross injustices and even deaths; they would lose their power over the people.
- WED CH. 14:** The LORD revealed to Ezekiel Israel's elders' idolatry when they sought his counsel. He was to tell them that all who would worship God *and* idols would be punished. The LORD will not spare Jerusalem from His *four disastrous acts of judgment* even if the likes of Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the city.
- THU CH. 15:** The LORD likens the inhabitants of Israel to a vine; useless for building and fit only to be burned. So, too, these people; the LORD will surely judge them with inescapable fire.
- FRI CH. 16:** The LORD depicts Israel as an abandoned baby that he rescued and lovingly raised to adulthood. In return, Israel chose to worship idols, giving to them that with which the LORD had blessed her. She gave herself to the nations like a prostitute, yet she paid them. The LORD promised to judge Israel for her infidelity, but, like a loving Husband, will one day restore her.
- SAT CH. 17:** In the LORD's riddle, the first eagle is Nebuchadnezzar, who exiled the Judean royalty (the cedar twig) to Babylon. He set Zedekiah (the seed that becomes a lowly vine) up as king in Jerusalem under a treaty, which Zedekiah broke by allying with Egypt (the second eagle) in a failed rebellion. Since he made the treaty in the LORD's name, God vowed to punish him, yet also promised to replant a twig (a king) that will grow to be a mighty cedar.
- SUN CH. 18:** The LORD attacks the belief that *"people are bound by the guilt or merit of their parents"* (NBC**) saying, *"I will judge...everyone according to his ways."* Whoever obeys the LORD's commands will live, whoever does not will die. If the wicked repent, they will not die. If the righteous turn to sin, they will die. The LORD says, *"I have no pleasure in the death of anyone ...so turn, and live."*